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Congrats to everyone at the Nation

By Will Nicholls

Once a year I get to sing praises on how well the Nation has done in the past year. It is the time when the Quebec Community Newspapers Association holds its Better Newspaper Competition. This is when the Nation competes against other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal newspapers in Quebec. This year like past years have made me proud of the professional and excellence of the entire staff in making the Nation one of the more respected papers in Quebec.

This year we won 1st place for best feature page for "Farewell To The Chief." The judges said this was a great example of the complete package. This was awarded to the Nation as a whole.

Our second award was a 3rd place in the Best Sport Page(s). The judge said although it was an entry that featured just one event "these pages catch your attention." I was the recipient of that award.

Amy German took 1st place for Best Feature Story. "Waiting for a corpse" was said to be well researched and written. The judge ended with "This one stands in a class to itself."

Lyle Stewart took 3rd place for Best Business Story for "The diamond challenge." The judge said it was well written and informative. He remarked "The writer finds a gem of an idea for a story and shines it up for the readers."

German accepted another award getting 3rd place in the Best Education

Story. "On the Path of the Elder" was an "interesting look at the innovative uses of technology for the purposes of teaching heritage and culture."

the Nation accepted a 1st place win for Best Community Health Story. Sarah Rogers' "Protecting the babies", according to the judge, "should be a wake-up call for this community. It makes for good writing when it's concise, understood and keeps a reader interested in reading until the end."

And last, but not least, was a 3rd place finish for Neil Diamond and Richard Lawson for Best Photo Essay. "Mixing sound under the stars" was judged to be a good variety of pictures of entertainers on the stage.

It was a good year and I congratulate everyone who made *the Nation* possible to continue to serve our communities. Yes, it may be the reporters who come home covered in glory – at least for a few days – but it is the combined efforts of many who make *the Nation* what it is. Without our staff and many unsung heroes tirelessly working in the background, we would not be able to do our job as professionally and as well as we do.

I feel honoured to head up such a great team of people and if I do not say it often I will say it now: I am proud of each and every one of you for your dedication and hard work that has continued to make *the Nation* such a great publication.

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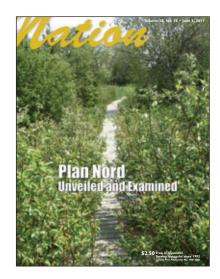
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Our message to the stars...

By Sonny Orr



One of my favourite things to read are the silly old news stories you often find in grocery stores, declaring that Elvis Presley is still around. It's hard not believe that Elvis may still be alive when you know that he still lives on in the digital or analog version and is probably one of the longer lasting artists still spewing music into the vastness of outer space via thousands of radio and television stations at any given time. Those signals reached the nearest 70 stars by 1989, and are still traveling nearly 40 light years later to another 1800 stars, that is, since 1973. when Elvis first broadcast live around the world by satellite.

So it's possible, that if any alien civilization were to keep track of us, they would most likely think Elvis is King of Earth and we worship Him by throwing ourselves at him and swooning a lot. Of course, our interesting shaking, rattling and rolling is most likely a mating ritual that leads to collapsing into the arms of an Elvis look-a-like male, that leads hopefully to procreation.

Since this may be fact, because of its incredible scientific backing to prove that this has been happening since the radio was invented a century ago. It's possible that our own Cree language has been out there for a while now, since the middle of the '80s, flooding the nearest planets with our superior mathematics, where the numbers are more than 10-based; actually a complex and random algorithm using 75 numbers segmented by five. They would probably also believe that we respect those numbers so much that we reward those who wish to win the gods' admirations when we shout out "BINGO" in praise of the great mathematician in the sky. Yes, prayer does have its rewards for those faithful followers.

Think this may be unreal? What will happen when the present signals reach those aliens in 15 years? They might think that we have swayed from our gods' wishes and have gone completely crazy with self-satisfaction, murder and mayhem, blowing up and shooting everything and, of course, procreating and procreating. If we are concerned citizens and wish to stop ourselves from being completely wiped off the face of Earth by some pissed-off and insulted alien civilization because they might believe what they see in our televised broadcasts and won't be able to differentiate between fact and fiction, we could be in trouble if we don't send out messages of apologies.

At least, in our own cultural innocence, we kept and still strive to keep what we value and I hope that this message doesn't have to reach some alien civilization to remind us that we still have a cultural and traditional responsibility to maintain who we are - Eeyouch. Then I guess we are doing the right thing by espousing our language and culture using the most modern means possible, to offset all that other crap we watch and hear on the air. We need to show those aliens that, hey, we're trying to do good - so please don't zap us into oblivion just because we like to hunt and eat animals, fish and harvest and don't like destructive development on pristine lands.

So citizens of Alpha Centauri and Sirius, I apologize on behalf of the citizens of Earth for the last 30 years of crappy TV shows and reruns, and by the time you get this, also for all the reality shows and soap operas. You can, however, peruse APTN, any First Nation or Inuit broadcaster or local radio station without a worry.

the Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS: \$60 PLUS TAXES

US: \$90 ABROAD: \$110

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PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005 ISSN #1206-2642 The Nation IS A MEMBER OF: THE JAMES BAY CREE

COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY, CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS, MAGAZINES CANADA QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN.

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSN.

LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.















news

A golden opportunity

Wemindji and mining giant Goldcorp agreed to set up new gold mine

By Akiva Levitas

The future is looking as bright as gold for the Cree Nation of Wemindji. On February 21, Wemindji, along with the Grand Council of the Crees and the Cree Regional Authority, signed an agreement with Goldcorp to expand the Eléonore Gold Project. The expansion will result in the creation of a new gold mine near the community. The deal includes a Category Il land acquisition, fixed payments to the community, and increased collaboration between Goldcorp and the Cree Nation.

With so much at stake in this project, every conceivable issue had to be addressed and agreed upon by the community, which confirmed the deal on lanuary 26. After the Wemindji approved the deal, it was unanimously accepted by the Grand Council and the CRA on February 3.

Based in Vancouver and being one of the fastest-growing gold producers in the world with assets all over North and South America, Goldcorp is a viable partner to have working around your community when you make the right deal, which seems to have happened in Wemindji.

The benefits for Wemindji and the surrounding communities are numerous with the most obvious one being the creation of jobs with long-term potential. In time, this project will make an impact on the high employment rates that are the norm in the far North.

According to Mark Wadden, Wemindji's Liason Officer on the Éléonore project, the community is already involved. "We were part of something right from the beginning. We're not trying to knock on doors after everything has been signed. We, the Cree, were part of the development from the start. We are actually helping them plan the mine itself."

Wadden pointed out that Tawich, the local Cree construction company, already is working on a big contract. "Tawich is doing the underground explorations right now. Tawich Construction has about 80% Cree people on the site.

Just to give you an idea, when we were building the wastepad we had about 85% Crees working on that contract and they [filled positions] from top management to the truck drivers. Of course, some people we had to bring in, like engineers for technical expertise. But for the most part it's all Cree."

The land, which is the focal point for the deal, was the trapline of local tallyman Michael Mayappo. In an interview with CBC North, Mayappo said the decision was very easy for him to make. With all the benefits gained, it's no wonder why. Goldcorp has stated that it will be doing its utmost to safeguard the

"WE WERE PART OF SOMETHING RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING. WE'RE NOT TRYING TO KNOCK ON DOORS AFTER EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SIGNED. WE, THE CREE, WERE PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT FROM THE START. WE ARE ACTUALLY HELPING THEM PLAN THE MINE ITSELF."

Along with jobs comes a potential economic boom as there are business opportunities for the locals to take advantage of. This will see an increase in the financial well-being of the community as a whole. In order to accommodate the new mine, there will also be a growth in roads and infrastructure. All of which will remain long after the mine is closed up in the distant future. All of this bodes well for the future of Wemindji.

While the economy in southern Quebec is slowing down, the North, on the other hand, is experiencing an explosive growth in the raw resource industry. The development of the area has recently become a top priority for the Quebec government after its announcement of the Plan Nord on May 9. It's also no surprise that the ones who will gain the most from the Plan are the mining companies which will receive an estimated \$33 billion in investment.

Along with the business agreement, Goldcorp has also taken it upon itself to ensure the mine lives up to environmental standards not only of Quebec and Canada, but of the Cree Nation Mining Policy. The acceptance by Goldcorp to adhere to this policy is an important precedent for any future development in this industry.

environment and the health of the local community. That being said, there is no way of looking into the future to see what problems may occur, however small the chances.

Taking all of this into consideration, the community of Wemindji, as well the Cree Nation as a whole, will be enjoying the fruits of this deal for many years to come. The opportunities in employment and education will guarantee that not only will the current generation reap the benefits, but future ones will continue benefitting. The Éléonore Gold Project can only grow now that there is in effect a partnership between the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and Goldcorp ensuring both parties a lasting golden age.





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Grand conseil des Cris (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)





To celebrate the implementation of the new **EEYOU EENOU POLICE FORCE**

The Grand Council of the Crees El/CRA cordially invites you to attend the inauguration of the Eeyou Eenou Police Force Regional Police Headquarters in Chisasibi.

On June 14, 2011 - Join us for this historic event!

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Ashley Iserhoff Debuty Grand Chief

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Ottawa's going Native

First Innu MP Peter Penashue holds two cabinet portfolios

By Will Nicholls

Peter Penashue became the first Innu ever elected to Parliament. His history-making journey didn't end there as Prime Minister Steven Harper added him to his cabinet. Penashue in one fell swoop became the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada. Membership in the Privy Council is for life unless the Governor General withdraws the appointment.

Penashue is also the only Conservative elected in Labrador and Newfoundland this time around. The NDP had courted Penashue but he decided joining the Conservative Party would be the best choice for his riding, once a Liberal safe seat.

Given Penshue's past many might have been surprised that he achieved such a high prominence in Canada's new government.

"Peter's an old friend," said Bill Namagoose, Executive Director for the Grand Council of the Crees. Namagoose met Penashue during the battle over Hydro-Québec's proposed Great Whale Hydroelectric Project. During this time the Innu had their own battles with intrusions into their traditional territory. Penashue was one of the leaders in opposing low-level military flight training in Labrador. The Crees and the Innu traded information and strategies.

Penashue was only 26 when he became president of the Innu Nation. He was the Grand Chief from 1990-1997 and his leadership would be tested. It was through his hard work and belief in people that the dire straits of the Innu community of Davis Inlet gained international attention.

Even though he was outspoken and a proponent of Innu rights and interests Penashue always said that his people must have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in all opportunities. So as well as resolving the Innu's long-standing land claims, he

facilitated the development of the Voisey's Bay nickel mine. Learning from the past, Penashue pursued and achieved a partnership role for his people in the Lower Churchill Falls Hydroelectric Project. The Innu now had guaranteed employment for its members and revenue for the entire nation through both projects.



Peter Penashue becomes Parliament's first

The Lower Churchill Falls Project has caused some controversy for him. Penashue's own mother has said she will continue to oppose the project as she is worried about its impact on the land and wildlife.

In Quebec, Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois has publically questioned Penashue's objectivity. She was upset that he had been appointed to the job of maintaining good relations between the provinces. Marois said that Quebec and Newfoundland with Labrador are currently at odds over two issues: the hydroelectric development of Lower Churchill Falls and exploiting the resources of the Old Harry gas deposit.

The Churchill Falls project contract was negotiated with Hydro-Québec for a 65-year timespan, ending in the year 2041. Hydro-Québec has annual revenues of about \$1.7 billion while Newfoundland and Labrador receive \$63 million. The Lower Churchill Falls Project isn't a part of this contract so Quebec refused to allow Newfoundland or Labrador to transmit electricity through its grid. As a result an alternative route is being developed that will bypass Quebec.

With the Old Harry gas deposit, Newfoundland and Labrador has already laid claim to the bulk of the offshore oil reserve and granted a permit to a company to explore the area. Before the election, Quebec and the Harper government had tentatively struck a deal where Quebec would receive royalties from the project if it passed an environmental review.

Penashue, now 47, shows that the days and methods of civil disobedience are a tool that may be discarded when it is no longer needed or beneficial. Though a traditionalist in many ways, he has never stopped looking forward to the future.

Penashue is now in the nationtal spotlight and no doubt many Canadians, among them Aboriginal leaders and peoples, will be looking to see if he lives up to his reputation. The past has been one of fairness for all the people of Labrador and Newfoundland. It is expected by supporters that he will do the same for all Canadians as the latest member of the cabinet.

Penashue isn't the only Canadian Aboriginal to be named to the cabinet – he joins Nunavut MP Leona Aglukkaq, who was renamed Minister of Health by Harper.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Review Committee (COMEX) will hold public consultations on the Éléonore project which comprises the development and operation of a gold mine located in the northeastern portion of the Opinaca reservoir. The project proponent is Les Mines Opinaca Ltée (MOL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Goldcorp Inc.

The sessions will be held on:

June 14th 2011: in Wemindji at the Community Hall starting at 7:00pm.

June 16th 2011: in Chibougamau at the Club de golf de Chibougamau, 130 rue des Forces Armées, starting at 7:00pm.

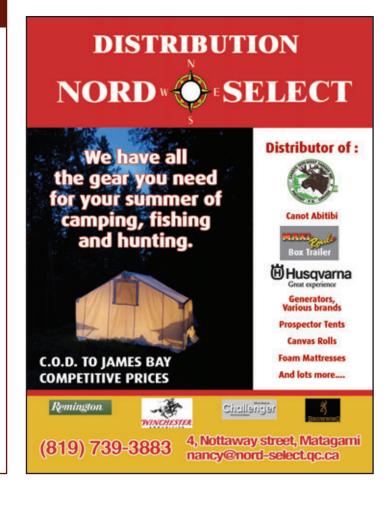
In order to schedule more efficiently the sessions, we would appreciate being informed in advance of your intention to present an oral brief on the project, at the following number (418) 521-3933 ext. 7255.



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Romeo Saganash named Natural Resources critic

As a nod to the growing influence of the Cree Nation, NDP leader Jack Layton appointed newly elected MP Romeo Saganash to the shadow cabinet as Natural Resources critic. Saganash will be carefully monitoring the work Conservative minister Joe Oliver does with the Natural Resources portfolio.

Outgoing Auditor General addresses Aboriginal poverty

With her last kick at the can as Auditor General, Sheila Fraser delivered her final recommendations to the federal government regarding Canada's greatest needs for change. Among them were swift recommendations to address Aboriginal poverty.

According to Fraser, despite how rich Canada is, the country's First peoples are falling further and further behind economically. Despite this, the issue never seems to be addressed.

"Over the past 10 years my office has produced no fewer than 31 audit reports on Aboriginal issues. Yet, despite these reports and actions by the federal government in response to our recommendations, too many First Nations people still lack what most other Canadians take for granted," said Fraser to APTN News.

The Auditor General leaves her post on May 30 after 10 years in the position.

Robbie Robertson awarded Order of Canada

After 50 years of rocking out and writing songs that shaped decades and generations, Six Nations of the Grand River rocker Robbie Robertson graced a stage he had never graced before when he received the Order of Canada at Rideau Hall May 27.

Canada recognized the 67-year-old singer/songwriter for his contributions to Canadian culture and heritage and his incredible songbook that contain many great hits.

Rising to fame in the 1960s as the front-man for The Band, Robertson is responsible for such songs as The Weight, The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down and Up on Cripple Creek.

An international star, Robertson has been quoted on many occasions saying he was most influenced by the Native American music he heard on his home reserve when he would return there with his mother during the summers of his childhood.

INAC name change not well received

With the announcement of his new cabinet on May 18, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that the department once known as Indian and Northern Affairs has been renamed Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

While the change might be minimal since it is the same department under a different moniker, some First Nations have expressed frustration as they would much rather see departmental restructuring and policy change than a simple rephrasing of a title.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo announced that while he is looking forward to working with new Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, he is hopeful that more change is on the way than just a name.

"This needs to be about real action and change, not a name change," said Atleo.

Since Harper unveiled the new department and cabinet, no announce-

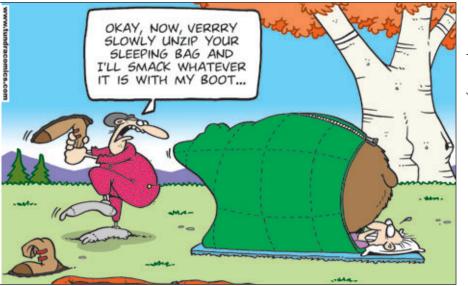


ments have been made to suggest how the department may be differently run.

IFAW dog clinics

The International Fund for Animal Welfare will be hosting veterinary dog clinics in two Cree communities. Vets at the clinics perform surgeries to spay or neuter dogs as well as vaccinations and other routine procedures.

IFAW is in Waskaganish June 1, 2 and 3 (contact Ernest Blueboy or Darlene Cheechoo) and in Nemaska June 4 and 5 (contact George Swallow or Robbie Dick).





It's all about the Plan

Quebec's plan for the north pleases Crees but not everyone else

By Amy German

After years in the making, Quebec premier Jean Charest finally unveiled the Plan Nord for provincial development north of the 49th parallel on May 9 to many cheers as well as a few jeers from some of the First Nations that will be affected by the plan.

Despite the concerns some Aboriginal and Innu communities have expressed about the mega development plan, Quebec's Minister responsible for Native Affairs Geoff Kelley said there is a tremendous amount to celebrate and still room at the table for everyone to negotiate. As far as the deal goes, the

said Kelley explaining just exactly how revolutionary the Plan is.

"I liken this to a big kitchen table and sitting around the table will be representatives of the First Nations and the Inuit, environmental groups, the municipalities, industry and government, and together we can try to find ways to develop a vision of how we want the north to be opened up and how we can be respectful of its beautiful nature. It's also about how we can be respectful of the rights of the people who have lived there for a very long time, the First Nations and the Inuit." he added.

ing issues with governance, as in the case of the Cree.

In total the Quebec government will be investing \$80 billion in public and private funds to develop the territory north of the 49th parallel over the next 25 years. While several major projects have already been announced, according to Kelley, many more will be unveiled in the coming months.

Just how will this new deal for development work? Kelley pointed to Wemindji's deal with Goldcorp for the Éléonore gold project as an example of how projects will roll out. Not only will the Cree community see significant economic



Quebec's Minister responsible for Native Affairs Geoff Kelley

Cree and the Inuit now have a great deal going to bring hope to the north.

"The Plan Nord is about trying to do things differently. We know there is a great interest in developing the north and we can do things project by project or we can try to develop it together,"

"THE PLAN NORD IS ABOUT TRYING TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY. WE KNOW THERE IS A GREAT INTEREST IN DEVELOPING THE NORTH AND WE CAN DO THINGS PROJECT BY PROJECT OR WE CAN TRY TO DEVELOP IT TOGETHER."

This massive deal addresses a wide variety of development that includes the mineral, energy, forestry, wildlife and tourism sectors. In terms of community development, the Plan will also see investment go into education, manpower, housing, health and social services as well as culture. And, with the new deal, the wheels have already been put into motion to address long-stand-

returns from this project, but they were able to negotiate, sitting down with the Grand Council of the Crees and Goldcorp, for specific economic benefits whether they are contracts or employment.

In terms of improving life in Eeyou Istchee, Kelley said part of the Plan would be to conduct a study regarding feasibility of connecting Whapmagoostui to the road network.

"There are other things in the Plan in terms of strengthening education and manpower training to make sure that those who want to participate can do so with the job opportunities that are coming," said Kelley.

Among the other immediate announcements made regarding Cree lands were the expansion of Highway 167 to the Otish Mountains and the creation of Assinica Park.

While expanding the highway will certainly have its benefits for the mining industry since diamond mining in the Otish Mountain region was announced as part of the Plan, Kelley said he is hoping that extending the road will benefit the Cree and other industries.

"The idea is that when we sit down to design the route, it won't be just a direct road to the diamond mine. We want to see if we can use it in terms of giving access to traditional lands so that it's easier for Crees to go into the land.

"Also, tourism development is possible for that area so maybe a new road would allow us to do more than just build a route to a diamond mine," said Kelley.

With the Plan Nord, as projected years ago when the Crees signed the Paix des Braves agreement in 2002, the Assinica Park project has finally been given the green light as part of the Plan's promise for environmental sustainability.

"Perhaps the first tangible result was the announcement of the Assinica Park project which will be part of our network of national parks and this will be managed by the Cree. It will be exciting for Oujé-Bougoumou to have a park that is almost 3200 square kms. This project will create employment and with the opening of the museum and Cree cultural centre in Oujé this fall, it will continue to reinforce Oujé as a choice destination," said Kelley.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come was pleased to see this recent announcement made since he explained that the New Relationship Agreement and the Paix des Braves envisioned the creation of the Assinica Wildlife Reserve. He said Charest's announcement is a fulfillment of Paix des Braves that the Crees have welcomed.

"In the Plan Nord we talk about protected areas and this is one of them. I could spend hours talking about the 4%-8%-12% and we have maps of all of that because we participated at that table. But for now this is the Crees of Oujé-Bougoumou who participated, along with the Grand Council, in defining and designating the area called the Assinica Wildlife Reserve as a park so that there could be complete protection from all resource development activities and for it to remain a wildlife reserve," said Coon Come.

Part of the premise for this park is not only for the preservation of this precious Cree land under Oujé's management but there was another side to it. Coon Come explained that the Cree hunters, who have managed these five traplines for generations, felt they were at a point where they could pass on their knowledge of this land and invite people to learn about it as a tourist attraction so that they can tell their stories about how they love this land. Sharing Cree culture through the land and educating the outside world about the Crees was at the heart of the original project when the Crees applied for it many years ago.

For Coon Come, while Assinica is certainly a victory, the new agreement in principle that the Crees have developed regarding the territory of Eeyou Istchee through the Plan Nord is what really needs to be shouted from the rooftops.

Over the last year the Crees have been negotiating with Quebec to change the management of Category I, II and III lands so that they can finally begin to regain the rights and control over the territory that has been lost in the last 35 years of negotiations.

Going back to a year ago, Coon Come said that this began when Natural Resource Minister Nathalie Normandeau was invited to give the Crees an initial presentation on what the north would look like under the new deal. The idea was to get Normandeau to present this plan not just to the Cree leadership, but all Cree entities.

"Following that, it gave us a sense of direction by which we felt that we should participate in the Plan Nord. Of course, we had certain concerns, like the increased access of non-Cree to the territory, the impacts on traditional activities, the impacts on the environment, on culture, identity, language and, of course, increased competition by non-Aboriginal business-entrepreneurship. There was also a concern about potential impacts on Cree rights and interests.

"We had certain expectations of Plan Nord. Certainly we wanted to ensure that we be given access to new funding if new funding was available because that is provided for in the JBNQA and other agreements. We certainly wanted to continue to build and create new partnerships between the Cree and non-Aboriginal businesses and also with the Jamesians for an orderly development in the Cree territory," explained Coon Come.

A Cree working group was formed to address Cree concerns with the Plan and they participated on 11 different sector tables and sub-tables regarding different aspects of the deal. Those tables included discussions on access to the territory, transportation, community development, health and housing, education, culture and identity, wildlife, bio-fuel, tourism, energy, mines and forestry. Coon Come participated at the First Nations table as well as the "partners" table.

As a result, the GCC/CRA developed their own vision of the Plan in a 100-page document entitled "Cree Vision of Plan Nord" that was submitted to Quebec to describe not only the Cree vision but where it came from.

Coon Come summarized it by saying that the document defines who the Crees are on the territory as well as Cree perspectives, but more importantly it outlined the framework for development deals already laid out in previous agreements, such as the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

What was most important however was that Coon Come said that in terms of development, the first problem the Crees spotted with the Plan was that in Normandeau's original presentation it described how the current governance structures would be followed.

"This was problem number one and I have consistently maintained this posi-



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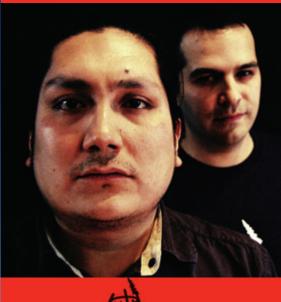
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tion. For the Cree, the Plan Nord must deal with the new governance regime in the territory. The present governance structures, for example the MBJ (Municipality of Baie James), are totally unacceptable. There was also the Cree SCREA and the other entities that were created without Cree participation or consent. So, if the present governance structures were applied and used for Plan Nord, the Crees would be excluded from direct participation in the development of the territory," said Coon Come.

Consequently this led to the Crees sitting down with all of the provincial bodies involved because there was no way that the Crees were signing a deal that did not give them the right to negotiate. Over the course of a year, Coon Come met numerous times with Normandeau, Charest, Kelley and Kelley's predecessor, Pierre Corbeil.

In the end, a new framework that would forever change the history of Eeyou Istchee was agreed upon because Coon Come said there was no way the Cree would sign on to the Plan without a new deal for governance.

Here is Coon Comes synopses of what the new framework will look like:

"First, in respect to Category I-A lands, we wanted to harmonize the local governance by the Cree band. Category I is subject to federal legislation and Category I-B lands were subject to provincial legislation. So we wanted to harmonize this so that all I-B lands will now become I-A lands. This was crucial.

"Regarding Category II lands, we wanted to exercise our own Cree nation governance by establishing Cree government institutions in which we will have certain functions and certain bylaws regarding management of Category II lands. This means we will replace the MRC (regional county municipality) functions and the land and resources management as well as economic development and this means that we will also replace the CRE (Commission of Elected Office). These are entities that were created unilaterally without Cree consent.

"So Category II lands will now be under Cree control though they will still remain Quebec public lands but we will have the full jurisdiction over Category II lands under Quebec law. So Cree Nation governance will be established over Category II lands.

"As for Category III lands, there will be a creation of a new public government. It will be non-ethnic governments that will exercise control over resource management functions on all Category III lands. And so the Crees and the Jamesians will work together over this governing body. It will be based on democratic principles and demographic realities. Right now there is no Cree participation within the MBJ. It was created by Bill 40 and it gave super municipal bylaw powers that

In terms of the Plan, Coon Come said he believed he has succeeded since the Crees are now finally taking back the land in incremental steps.

At the same time, he admits that this process certainly wasn't easy.

"When I said that it was a form of apartheid, Premier Charest said those were harsh words and I responded that yes they are. What I was saying was true and this is why we are able to suspend all of these bylaw powers that were given to the MBI.

"We did a lot of work and built relationships. We had several meetings with the municipalities. We were not negotiating with them; we were just meeting

"YOU WILL SEE ON THE MAY 27 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE BOUNDARIES ARE ACTUALLY THE ORIGINAL FAMILY TERRITORIAL TRAPLINES."

excluded the participation of the Crees and we will now be replacing that."

Under this new framework agreement, oppressive structures of governance that Coon Come described as a form of "apartheid" will finally change with the abolition of the MBJ. The policy of Cree exclusion will finally end.

It's not as though the Cree will dominate the territory, however Coon Come said everyone will work together – all of the Cree communities along with Chapais, Matagami, Chibougamau, La Belle sur Queveillon and the smaller municipalities.

"We worked hard. For this to be accepted we had to meet with the mayors of Chapais, Matagami, Chibougamau and La Belle sur Queveillon. We had to talk about boundaries, we had to meet with our Inuit friends, with the Montangais, the Algonquins, and we had tables for them so that we could agree to the boundaries.

"You will see on the May 27 announcement that the boundaries are actually the original family territorial traplines," said Coon Come.

with them to tell them that this was what we were going to do," said Coon Come.

And so the tables are finally turning for the Crees of Eeyou Istchee.

While the Crees have emerged from this agreement victorious, according to



Matthew Coon Come

Ghislain Picard, the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL), not every Aboriginal group has emerged from the Plan signing as well as the Cree have.

Along with the Cree, Nunavik got its own deal for the creation of 300 new homes and a special program for another 200 dwellings for those eligible for





Consell Cri de la sante et des services sociaux de la fluie James $\sigma \supseteq d \Rightarrow b \Rightarrow \Delta \cap \Delta + \Delta \land \Delta \Rightarrow d \Rightarrow b \cap Cb \sigma \Rightarrow Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay$

June is Elder's Health Month. The Cree Health Board celebrates the traditional knowledge of elders. This wisdom helps Cree lead balanced, healthy lives.

home ownership. Plus there were nickel-mining deals, investments into education and workforce development. However, some Algonquin and Innu groups are feeling bitter about the Plan.

Picard explained that while the AFNQL fully supports the Cree and the Inuit in the deals they have made, it is felt both groups had an easier time at the negotiation table because of the framework already in place by the agreements made in the 1970s.

"It would be difficult to say that we are really in full-out opposition of the Plan Nord, all we are saying is that perhaps the approach is not as balanced or as inclusive as it should be in terms of all Aboriginal communities," said Picard.

When the original Plan signing happened on May 9, lawyer Armand Mackenzie, who represents the Innu, explained that without a treaty his people have a series of outstanding land-claim issues that are not being addressed in the Plan because the Innu don't have the framework to negotiate when it came to natural resource development, environment and safeguarding their interests.

The Innu of Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam have still not reached an agreement regarding the La Romaine project, that was highlighted throughout the Plan, even though in a recent referendum the people rejected a deal regarding the construction of transmissions lines on their traditional territories.

While the two other communities affected by the La Romaine project have already signed on, Kelley said for now Quebec wanted to let the "dust settle" in the community and would address the issue at a later date.

"In no way does the Plan compromise the rights of the Innu to be consulted and to be accommodated. The Plan Nord gives them a chance to sit at the table and discuss how we develop things," said Kelley.

According to Picard, when it comes to resolving Innu land claims, the issue is taboo with the Quebec government.

"They have always provided that excuse of, well you know, we are sitting down at the table with these Nations, specifically the Innu Nation. We are

negotiating but these negotiations have been going on for the last 35 years. In this time they have never once referred back



Ghislain Picard, the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL)

to the fact that they are negotiating on the basis that there are rights and titles to the land, there is no statement from Quebec going as far as that," said Picard.

The Algonquin Nation of Kitigan Zibi also came out recently with statements

exist when it gets into a longer range and this is something that I hope that one day gets into resource or revenue sharing as those are things that often come out of treaties," said Kelley.

Picard however doubted Kelley's sincerity.

"I refer back to the fact that the Plan Nord is about all of those projects north of the 49th parallel but what Quebec is not taking into account is the fact that there may be communities situated south of that line that still have interests north of it. This is valid for some Algonquin and Attikamek communities," said Picard.

What the AFNQL wants for all of Quebec's First Nations is for the province to meet the conditions of having Aboriginal input and participation.

"THEY HAVE ALWAYS PROVIDED THAT EXCUSE OF, WELL YOU KNOW, WE ARE SITTING DOWN AT THE TABLE WITH THESE NATIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE INNU NATION. WE ARE NEGOTIATING BUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR THE LAST 35 YEARS. IN THIS TIME THEY HAVE NEVER ONCE REFERRED BACK TO THE FACT THAT THEY ARE NEGOTIATING ON THE BASIS THAT THERE ARE RIGHTS AND TITLES TO THE LAND, THERE IS NO STATEMENT FROM QUEBEC GOING AS FAR AS THAT"

condemning the Plan because, according to Tribal Council Vice Grand Chief Marlene Jerome, "the 1975 James Bay Agreement included a large part of the Algonquin territory north of the 49th parallel without consulting and accommodating the Algonquin." In turn, development of this land without developing a deal with the Algonquin would literally mean "a theft of our territory."

Kelley dismissed the matter, saying that there is a long-standing "difference of opinion" between the Cree and Algonquin in terms of overlapping land claims and territories along the 49th parallel and the Plan doesn't affect that matter.

"The obligations on Quebec that come from the Supreme Court in terms of consultation and accommodation "We have said that when the rules are clear that is fine and we are certainly supportive of those communities that want to go ahead (with the Plan). But at the same time where there are other communities impacted by some of these major undertakings there needs to be transparency on the part of the Quebec government and it seems as though we don't have that at this point," said Picard.

There is hope however for these communities as, according to Kelley, there is still a great deal of room for negotiation and time to sit at the tables for these Aboriginal groups to work out

What happens with them however is going to depend on the willingness of the parties to negotiate and at what cost.





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Resisting a Resist-A-Ball?

Cree fitness revolution keeps gaining steam despite bumps along the way

By Amy German

In the last year, a revolutionary new fitness-and-wellness program has been the foundation for hundreds of Cree women to lose an exponential amount of weight throughout Eeyou Istchee,

The question is however, why is Theresa Ducharme's Lemon Cree fitness program facing any resistance it all?

The Resist-A-Ball program started in the spring of 2010 as a mandate through the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association's (CWEIA) fitness-and-wellness endeavour to improve the physical and mental health of their constituents and other women throughout the nine communities and in other areas populated by Crees, such as Val-d'Or and Senneterre.

It was Holly Danyluk, the CWEIA's Regional Coordinator, who brought in Theresa Ducharme, originally to the program, having already seen what kind of miracles Ducharme could perform when the two worked together at the Native Women's Association of Canada years ago.

Back then Ducharme would get the staff to do workouts with her as part of the workday to cope with the stress of their work environment. Having felt the benefits herself, Danyluck wanted to see every woman in Eeyou Istchee have this same opportunity.

A year later and Ducharme has been to seven of the Cree communities and will soon be visiting Waskaganish and Whapmagoostui, before heading to the Val-d'Or/Senneterre area to complete Phase I.

While the original mission of the program – which includes Resist-A-Balls, Resist-A-Bands, Pilates, Dance, Breath work and stress-reducing meditation – was a fitness-and-wellness program to combat obesity, diabetes, heart disease and depression amongst women in the communities, the program has gone on to do so much more.

"Kudos go to the CWEIA because they are trying hard to empower. They are encouraging our women to be strong – physically, mentally and emo-



tionally – and they can't do it alone. I am so grateful to them because we have literally changed so many people's lives in less than a year," said Ducharme.

For every community she visited, Ducharme said she saw a transformation amongst the participants during the five or six days she was there. She once witnessed a woman in Waswanipi lose six inches within one of those weeks. And, just over a month ago when she was in Eastmain, the women there — while working with trainer Corie Druggett, who Theresa trained to run that community's program — lost over 39.5 inches collectively.

"When I first arrive, I see terror in some of the women's faces because they are fighting for their lives. Their doctors have told them that they need to exercise so they come to the class. After they have lost five or six inches, I see this different look on their faces of 'Wow, I can do this; Wow, I see the light; Wow, maybe I can loose weight and maybe I can get healthy.' This to me is huge," said Ducharme.

And, part of what makes this program so accessible to everyone is the fact that by using items like the resist-a-balls and resist-a-bands as the foundation of the workout, the playing field is leveled for everyone participating in the

program. According to Ducharme, this program is just as good of a workout and just as safe for a day-one beginner or a level-three master.

The success has been seen everywhere the program has taken off. According to Blanche Bosum, one of Ducharme's trainers in Oujé-Bougoumou, demand for the program there was so great that Ducharme is now in the process of certifying a third trainer to meet the community's demand.

While the two women who run the Oujé program are already offering four sessions per week, because they are enjoying their newfound fitness and motivation as trainers they are now offering other fitness programs, including a new running club.

Bosum said she felt as though her life had really changed with the program because as a trainer she feels like she has a responsibility to those in her classes to be a role model, stick with the program and not give up the way she might have with just going to the gym.

Once more, because the course is different and so much fun, an hour-long class feels like mere minutes, despite how hard she and the other women are working out.



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"I find myself looking forward to teaching the next class. This program is really original and you are working all of the muscles in your body when you do it well. It combines two things – exercising and having fun. It's the best combination you can have," said Bosum.

She said the participants in her class have also echoed this. They love the program because it's a workout they can do and because of the class's all-woman nature, there are social and bonding aspects of the program that make it incredibly enjoyable.

"It's a time for these women to be out of their routines and doing something that is just them with no children involved. It's something that they really enjoy," said Bosum.

Having that responsibility as a trainer has also created a new interest in fitness in Bosum as she is now trying to learn as much as she can in order to get into better shape herself and, at the same time, share this information with the groups she instructs.

For Druggett, teaching Ducharme's program to the women of Eastmain may just be one stage in her weight-loss journey but an extremely important one as it is what will most likely help her achieve her final goal in loosing 200 pounds.

Originally from Newfoundland, Druggett has been teaching programs from the Cégep de Saint-Félicien in the Cree communities for many years and began her weight-loss journey in May 2010 when she weighed 341 pounds.

Her story began when, upon deciding to begin exercising, her husband bought her a Wii Fit Plus board, but when she stepped on it the game told her that her weight exceeded the limit. Druggett said this wake-up call made her both angry and sad, and prompted her to join a weight-loss program in Newfoundland to learn how to lose weight.

It was when she moved to Eastmain last year that she began to walk, though with much difficulty.

"When I first started it would take me I5 minutes to get my shoes on to be able to walk for five minutes because I could only walk for five. Now I can run I8kms," said Druggett.

Walking and then running every day around Eastmain, Druggett has seen her body literally morph. She has lost 131.4 pounds to date, the equivalent to losing an entire average adult woman. But, even with the routine she has so diligently kept, Druggett said she felt the need for something else to help achieve her final goal of 141 pounds.

Druggett said she had heard about Ducharme's program from a former student in Oujé who thought she might be able to get something out of it. So, with that, Druggett promptly contacted



Ducharme to set the wheels in motion and kick-start the program in Eastmain. Not only did Druggett enjoy the program, by combining her teaching skills and weight-loss motivation, she trained to become an instructor.

"It was another turning point for me because I am now pushing to get under 200 pounds, which is my next big goal. So having the confidence to be a part of her class and now being able to teach it is a good move for me because it's something that will motivate me to reach my goal and when I do, to keep in shape and live a healthy lifestyle," said Druggett.

In speaking with the Nation, Druggett said she felt proud in sharing her story because she hopes it may motivate others to do something similar and change their lives.

Druggett has also enjoyed sharing in the joy of fitness with the other participants in the program and was proud to announce that among the 14 participants there has already been 39.5 inches lost in less than one month.

As for Ducharme, she hopes the program can enter Phase II of her plan once the first phase is completed.

Completing Phase I has been problematic however since the CWEIA only had enough funding to send Ducharme to each community only once and the program has fallen apart in some of them.

Ducharme said that while Mistissini had the largest participation during the program's pilot phase, the community is currently without an instructor and the same goes for Chisasibi. The program has also fallen apart in several other communities as some of the instructors are no longer available to teach and Ducharme hasn't had a budget to return to these communities.

According to Danyluk, because the CWEIA only acquired a budget for Ducharme to go to each community once, it is up to the individual communities to fund return visits for Ducharme and to pay instructors to keep them motivated in delivering the program. Two communities, Waswanipi and Oujé-Bougoumou, have done just that and are the only ones to offer salaries through their own community's budgets, sustaining new jobs, the programs and steady weight loss in those communities.

Ducharme hopes this happen as there is nothing she would like to see more than a successful program running in every community so that everyone has the opportunity to get healthy.

Once more, she has sent out proposals to see if funding is available for Phase II of the program. This would include: enhancement of the original women's program to include training with weights; a much-needed men's program that would be curtailed to the men in the community through Ducharme's partner who is a men's fitness specialist; a Cree basketball league that the whole community could participate in; and finally a series of self-esteem and self-development workshops for female youth throughout the communities.

While Ducharme and Danyluk said there was no word yet as to whether Phase II has been accepted, they are keeping their fingers crossed in the hopes of one day seeing a much-healthier Cree nation.

For more info: www.lemoncree.com



ROUTE 167 NORTH PROJECT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE OTISH MOUNTAINS PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED AND PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) invites the public to comment on the predicted environmental effects of the Route 167 North Project in the Direction of the Otish Mountains in Quebec.

The Agency is making available the Environmental Impact Statement that provides the details of the project, the components of the environment that may be affected by the project, the nature of that interaction and the proposed mitigation, the residual environmental effects after taking the mitigation into account, and the results of public consultation undertaken to date.

The Environmental Impact Statement and more information on the project are available on the Agency's Web site at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca, in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry under reference number 10-03-54435. Alternatively, a printed copy of the document is also available in the following locations:

Municipal Library, Chibougamau 601, 3rd St, Chibougamau QC G8P 3A2

Mistissini Council 187, Main St., Mistissini QC G0W 1C0

Interested persons or groups are invited to send their comments by July 11, 2011 in the official language of their choice to:

Route 167 North Project in the Direction of the Otish Mountains

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Dominique Lagueux, Project Manager 1141, Route de l'Église, 2nd floor P.O. Box 9514, Stn Ste-Foy

Québec QC G1V 4B8 Telephone: 418-649-6444

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All comments received will be considered public and will become part of the project file. This is the second of several public comment periods related to the environmental assessment of this project.

A final public comment period on the Comprehensive Study Report will be announced at a later date. This report and public comments received will be taken into consideration by the Minister of the Environment before he issues his environmental assessment decision statement.

Public Meetings

The Agency also invites the public to attend two public meetings where they can hear about the project and its potential impacts and provide their views to the federal government. Meetings will take place as follows:

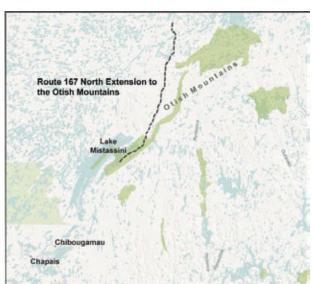
Tuesday June 21, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. Club de Golf Chibougamau Chapais Inc. 130 Forces Armées St Chibougamau QC

Wednesday June 22, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. Mistissini Lodge 24 Amisk St Mistissinni QC

For more information on these public meetings, please communicate with the project manager listed in this notice.

The Project and Location

The Quebec Department of Transportation is proposing to extend Route 167 North, in the direction of the Otish Mountains, approximately 250 kilometres to the northeast of Albanel Lake.



The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency administers the federal environmental assessment process, which identifies the environmental effects of proposed projects and measures to address those effects, in support of sustainable development.

Walking for clean water

Mother Earth Water Walkers draw attention to the state of our polluted waters

By Irkar Beljaars

Documentary filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin once told me during an interview that access to clean water was a human right. That was the message that the Mother Earth Water Walk wants to draw awareness to – the continued polluting of our natural clean-water resources.

Organizers of the walk ask, "What will you do for the water?" The walk itself acts to unite all the water around the world, water gathered from the four directions by grandmothers and women of the Anishinabe Nation and carried in copper pails to be delivered to its final destination – Lake Superior.

On May 20, the Grandmothers arrived on Victoria Island in Ottawa and were greeted by a several 100 supporters, including Assembly of First Nation National Chief Shawn A-in-Chut Atleo. Grandfather William Commanda per-



Melvina Flamand. Atleo spoke of the importance of the walkers' journey throughout North America.

"WE ARE TOLD NOT TO DRINK THIS WATER, WE ARE TOLD TO BOIL OUR WATER, AND WE ARE TOLD TO BUY BOTTLED WATER."

formed the opening ceremony and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and many other supporters were there to welcome lead walker



"What is being demonstrated here, on Victoria Island, is that we have a united community around a common cause, a community united in its concern about the state of our water," stated Atleo.

Atleo continued by saying that in the last two to three generations, clean water has become increasingly polluted. "We are told not to drink this water, we are told to boil our water, and we are told to buy bottled water."

Having visited northern communities, buying bottled water can be very expensive. In communities that are already hit hard financially, extra expenses like basic clean water are why events, like the Water Walk, are so desperately needed. But are the politicians listening?

The need for clean water in many First Nations communities across Canada is becoming a life-and-death struggle. Just take a community like Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, which has seen a sharp rise in rare cancers. Many experts have said it is the poor water conditions caused by the tar sands, but the oil companies beg to differ. The federal government promised to draft drinking water standards for First Nations communities in 2007 but there has been no bill before the House of Commons and boil-water advisories remain in place on more than 90 Canadian reserves.

Unlike their "do not consume" cousins, boiled-water advisories allow tap water to be consumed for drinking and other uses like brushing teeth, provided it is first boiled.

I don't know about you but having to boil my water before drinking or bathing in it would get tiresome very quickly. Now imagine having to do that for decades?

After leaving Ottawa, the Walkers are heading through Ontario to the Wisconsin River, where it connects to Lake Superior. They want to draw attention to the need for better water regulations across North America. We can only hope that they succeed!

You can listen to Irkar Beljaars on Native Solidarity News on CKUT 90.3FM every Tuesday 6-7pm in Montreal or contact him at Mohawk_voice on Twitter.



BlackRock Mining Project Public Consultation Period and Federal Funding Available

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is conducting a comprehensive study, which is a type of environmental assessment, for the BlackRock Mining Project located in Quebec. At this time, the comprehensive study is in its early stages. The Agency is inviting the public to comment on the project and the conduct of the comprehensive study and to identify environmental issues that should be considered in the environmental assessment.

The Agency has prepared a background document that contains information on the proposed project, on the federal requirements of a comprehensive study and on the proposed environmental components to be considered in the review of the project.

The document and more information on this project are available on the Agency's website at www.ceaaacee.gc.ca, in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry under reference number 11-03-62105. To obtain a copy of the document, please communicate with the project manager listed in this notice or visit the following locations:

City Hall 145 Springer Boulevard, PO Box 380 Chapais QC G0W 1H0

Municipal Library 650 3rd Street Chibougamau QC G8P 1P1

207, Opemiska Meskino Oujé-Bougoumou QC G0W 3C0

Isaac Shecapio Sr. Administration Building 187. Main Street Mistissini QC G0W 1C0

1. Chief Louis R. Gull Street Waswanipi QC J0Y 3C0

Interested individuals or groups are invited to send their comments, by no later than June 30, 2011, in the official language of their choice to:

BlackRock Mining Project Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Kambale Katahwa, Project Manager 1141 route de l'Église, 2nd Floor PO Box 9514. Ste-Fov Station Québec QC G1V 4B8

Telephone: 418-649-6444 Fax: 418-649-6443

MinierBlackRockMining@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

All comments received will be considered public and will become part of the project file. This is the first of several public comment periods that will occur during the environmental assessment of the project. Future public participation opportunities, for example the review of the potential environmental effects analysis and of the Comprehensive Study Report, will be announced at a later date. The Comprehensive Study Report and comments received will be taken into consideration by the Minister of the Environment before he issues his environmental assessment decision statement.

Availability of \$50,000 for public participation

The Agency is making available \$50,000 under its participant funding program to assist individuals and groups to participate in the federal environmental assessment process for the BlackRock Mining Project. This funding is intended for activities that will follow the public consultation currently underway.

Applications received by no later than June 30, 2011 will be considered. To submit an application or to obtain additional information on the program, contact:

Participant Funding Program Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Suzanne Osborne 160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor Ottawa ON K1A 0H3 Telephone: 1-866-582-1884 or 613-957-0254

Fax: 613-948-9172 PFP.PAFP@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Information on the Participant Funding Program, including a guide and the application form, is available on the Agency's website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

The project and location

BlackRock Metals Inc. is proposing to develop an iron, titanium and vanadium mine with an estimated production capacity of 20 000 to 50 000 tonnes per day, located on James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement territory in the municipality of James Bay. The project could potentially consist of an open pit, a processing plant, an access road, a conveyor system or a railway, and a transmission line.



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Following the trail of my great-grandfather

by Xavier Kataquapit

recently travelled to the United Kingdom on a pilgrimage to find my great-grandfather's grave. The good news is that I found the white-stone marker bearing his name John Chookomolin although they had misspelled it lakomolin. It was good to kneel at the place where he was buried and to feel the space around me.

My great-grandfather and 23 other young Cree boys from Attawapiskat were picked up by a recruiter in the summer of 1917. I am not sure how this military man found his way to the remote shore of James Bay way back then when travel was very difficult and the wilderness almost impossible to move about in. Yet, this man convinced these boys to travel by canoe for two weeks to a place near Nakina, Ontario where they caught a train and travelled to points south for training. By autumn they were boarding a troop ship to London. They were mostly split up in the UK and sadly my great-grandfather is claimed to have developed pneumonia and died in September. He was only 22. My research indicates that the Spanish Flu hit in 1919 and later, so there is some debate as to what it was that killed him in September 1917.

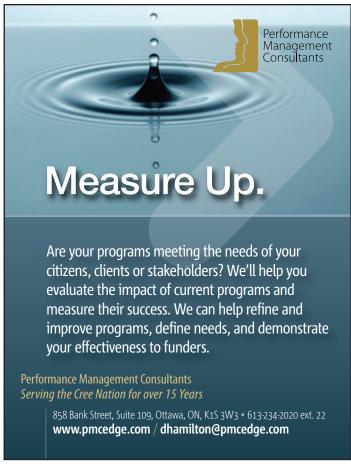
As I travelled on an international flight to London I had a lot of time to think about what it must have been like for those young Cree boys. I realized that they would have had no knowledge about the world outside of their traditional hunting and fishing lands on the shore of James Bay. They could not speak English, they had never seen a train, ship, developed towns, cities or all the infrastructure that went with them. They had no idea they were off to fight in some great war, worlds away from their own realities.

It would not have been so bad if my great-grandfather had made it back from that experience but in fact he died in a foreign land surrounded by strangers. I think he would have been full of fear and very alone as he struggled to breathe in a field hospital near Egham in England. He would have been thinking about his young wife, Maggie, and his little girl, Louise, as he slipped away from life. Our family was not notified of his death and there was never any communication from the Canadian government. He just simply disappeared and we knew nothing about him for 80 years. Louise, his little girl, lost her father in that summer of 1917 and a few years later her mother passed away leaving her an orphan. Louise was my grandmother and she passed on in 2007.

Although my pilgrimage to the grave of John Chookomolin was a sad journey, it also gave me an insight into the folly of war. In the St. Jude's graveyard in Englefield Green, I was surrounded by many gravestones of soldiers who died in World War One. It was apparent to me that their lives were taken without much thought. The experience made me feel stronger in my distaste for war at any cost. There were no kings, princes, aristocrats or government and political people in this graveyard, but I saw the headstones of lots of regular men who answered the call to war. I know now that it is never the rich and powerful who go to war. These people simply start wars and usually they have to do with money, power, the desire for resources and dumb bravado. The public, the average men and women are the ones put in harm's way to satisfy the powerful few who decide to go to war.

Although my great-grandfather John Chookomolin did not return from the war my grandfather James Kataquapit did. He had lots of stories about heading off from Halifax in a huge ship (Cheeman), crossing the great ocean (Kitchi-Kamee) and arriving in the white man's world (Mishtigooshoo Aski) in the UK. He was split up from his friends in London and he lost track of many of them. When he was returned to Canada he was taken to the spot near Nakina and simply dropped off at the rail side and told to go home. It was a miracle he made it back to Attawapiskat.

This pilgrimage to my great-grandfather's grave reminds me that not much has changed when it comes to making war. Today, we are at war in Afghanistan and Libya and the reasons for being there are very obscure. We have put our young people in harm's way once again. There are all kinds of excuses for these wars but really it all boils down to the same old game. We want their resources and we feel a need to control their lands. This experience in visiting England and researching my great-grandfather's trail has strengthened my opposition to war as a means to any end. I intend to give John Chookomolin the voice he never had in writing about him and the other boys who were taken from their home in the summer of 1917. That will be their legacy.





On September 19, 2007 the Indian Residential Schools Settlement became effective. At the time, it was estimated that 80,000 former students were alive in 2007. As of January 1, 2011, Common Experience Payments have been issued to 76,623 former students. An important deadline is now approaching.

Under the terms of the Settlement, September 19, 2011 is the Common Experience Payment (CEP) Application Deadline.

What is a Common Experience Payment?

under the Indian Residential Schools
Settlement Agreement to former students
who lived at a recognized Indian Residential
School under the Indian Residential Schools
Settlement Agreement and who were alive on
May 30, 2005. Payments are \$10,000 for the
first school year (or part of a school year) plus

\$3,000 for each additional school year (or part of a school year).

Which schools are included? The list of recognized Indian Residential Schools has been updated. Six Indian Residential Schools have been added; decisions regarding a number of other schools are in progress. A complete and updated list of recognized residential schools is available at the website listed above.

How do I apply for CEP? To apply for a Common Experience Payment, please complete and submit an application form by September 19,

2011. To get an application form, please call 1-866-879-4913, go to the website or visit a Service Canada Centre. Service Canada staff members are available to help applicants complete the CEP application form.

What if I have already applied for a Common Experience Payment? If you have already applied please do not submit a new application. If you have not received a decision or have questions about your CEP application, please contact the phone number below.

What about the Independent Assessment Process? The Independent Assessment Process (IAP) is a separate out-of-court process for the resolution of claims of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, and other wrongful acts suffered at residential schools. The IAP is a complex process

and it is strongly recommended that you hire a lawyer if you wish to submit an IAP application. CEP and IAP are separate processes and former students may apply for the CEP, or for the IAP, or for both the CEP and IAP. The deadline to apply for an IAP payment is **September 19, 2012**.

More information on both processes is available at 1-866-879-4913 and at the website. The IRS Crisis Line (1-866-925-4419) provides immediate and culturally appropriate counselling support to former students who are experiencing distress.

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BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 6th BIRTHDAY TO BAI-LEY TURNER in Mistissini, OC. whose special day is May 29th, 2011. Love coming from Dad, Jordan, Jake, Vanessa, Kaylynn and Trey. Also, happy birthday from everyone in the Turner family in Moose Factory, Ontario. Hope you will have fun on your special day. We can't wait for you to come and visit again. Hugs and kisses from us all!

Happy birthday, you tall, tall guy Mr. Ian Bobbish. I hope you enjoyed your birthday Nashakash. Anyway happy birthday and many more to come. I wuv U. Love always your favourite annoying cousin, Virginia

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my sister Violet Neeposh in North Bay. Her birthday is on May 31st, have fun on your birthday sis and don't party too much, partying on your birthday is not mandatory lol (Even though it will be Tuesday). Treat yourself to a nice restaurant and rent movies and maybe a board game night with friends. Anyway, choose wisely, lol. Love you and miss u, from sis Victoria and your nephew, baby Chase <3

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my bro Mario Mamianskum on May 10th and many more birthdays to come! :) With love from Jeannie

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our bunnik Jewel C.

Napartuk on May 19th, she will be turning 5 years old. We thank God every day for you. Four and a half years ago we thought you were not gonna make it now look at you you're the most beautiful girl in the world! We love you so much! From mommy and daddy:)

I want to wish a happy belated birthday to my mamma Spy Trapper <3 whom I love and adore so much (her birthday was on April 30th). Happy birthday Mamma chishachiidin Mishtii- <3 take care & God bless! Xox- Nii: Whitney < 3

Happy belated birthday greetings to the following people who celebrated their special day in the month of May 2011: my sister Eliza (5), her son Travis (6), Eric (8), Benjamin (10), Ryan & Jonathan (13), Tina (15), Karlene-Jenny (21), Brandon (22), Leigh-Ann (25), Margaret & Pauline (26) and Priscilla (28). I hope all of you will have or have had a beautiful day! With love always, Jennifer and Robert Dixon

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my beautiful flower on May 3rd, 2011: my daughter Elizabeth J. "Beth" Bosum. You have bloomed into a beautiful flower; don't let anything or anyone bring you down. You are a special person, be strong and keep in mind that you are beautiful inside and out. I love you with all my heart and I miss our moments together... you, me and Summer-Lee. There is not a day that goes by



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that I don't think of you. We will be together again. I'll be coming home to a new start. I love you both always. With love, from mom Agnes S. all the way from Montreal. :)

PERSONAL MESSAGES

TI just want to congratulate my sister Viviane Snowboy for the Walking Out of her first son (my nephew) Mark Petawabano! We all miss you both! From Mom, Dad, Vanessa, Baboo, Keesik and Alex! xO

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Happy (belated) Mother's Day to my mother Jacqueline Masty. You are the most important person in my life. Ever since our mother Frances Sheshamush left this world and went to a special place where our father, Joseph Sheshamush was waiting for her. You are the person who always teaches me like our belated mother did and the other thing is you always tell me or what I can do. I love you, Mommy. You are always by my side. I know I need to be more responsible as I'm getting older. I'm not getting younger but I wish. LOL Once more, I love you so much & always will. Love your daughter Virginia

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCTEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Missing Children's Network:

They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333.

Kid's Help Phone Line:

1-800-668-6868

(www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth helpline: 1-800-263-2266

(www.teljeunes.com)

Parent helpline:

1-800-361-5085 (www.paren-thelpline.ca)

Drugs: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-refer-

ence.qc.ca) S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:

1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolence-conjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality resources center:

1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline:

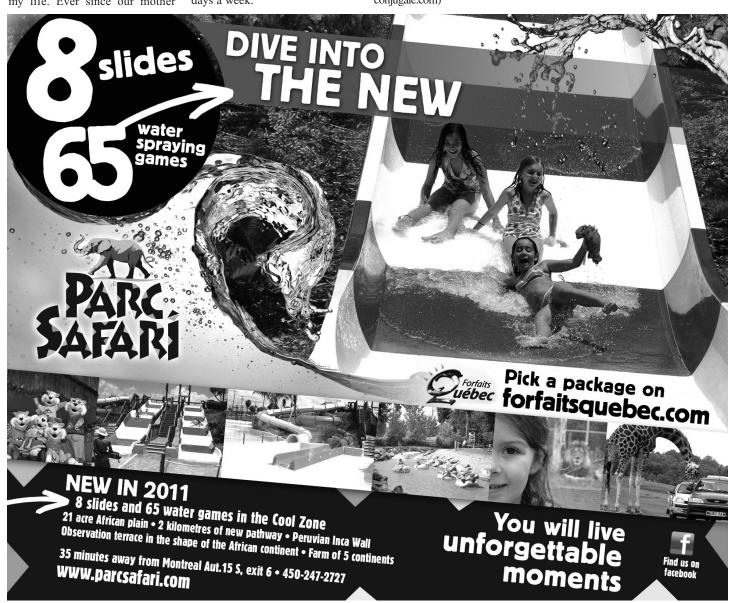
1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:

1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info) **Suicide Action Québec:** 1-866-277-3553

Residential School Survivors:

A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html





The new solidarity tax credit

As of July, the solidarity tax credit will replace the QST credit, the property tax refund and the credit for individuals living in northern villages.

More generous, this new tax credit will be paid monthly to 2.7 million eligible households.

Sign up for direct deposit today to receive it every month. For more information visit **revenuquebec.ca**

If you don't have a bank account, contact us:

 Quebec City region
 418 659-6299

 Montreal region
 514 864-6299

Elsewhere 1 800 267-6299 (toll-free)

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